Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 20 and 40-44. Please cancel claim 34.

1 to 19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A method of treating pain in a ~~mammal~~ human suffering from pain comprising administering a composition comprising an amount of Glial Cell Line-Derived ~~Neurotropic~~ Neurotrophic Factor (GDNF) effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF alters tetrodotoxin-sensitive sodium ion current in neuronal cells.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the neuronal cells are selected from the group consisting of dorsal root ganglia neurons and trigeminal neurons.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the dorsal root ganglia neurons are small dorsal root ganglia neurons.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in activity of at least one NaN sodium channel.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the activity of the NaN sodium channel activity is increased.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in expression of at least one NaN sodium channel.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the expression of the NaN sodium channel is increased.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in activity of at least one SNS/PN3 sodium channel.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in expression of at least one SNS/PN3 sodium channel.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the expression of the SNS/PN3 sodium channel is increased.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the small dorsal root ganglia binds lectin IB4.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF alters neuronal hyperexcitability associated with the pain.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the pain is associated with paraesthesia.

34. (cancelled)

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the composition is administered by intravenous, intrathecal, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the composition in administered orally.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF is administered in combination with at least one second agent.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the second agent is an analgesic agent.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the second agent alters sodium ion current in neuronal cells.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the amount of amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human is about 0.1 to about 100 μg per kg body weight.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the amount of amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human is about 0.1 to about 10 μg per kg body weight.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 41 wherein the amount of amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human is about 0.1 to 1.0 about μg per kg body weight.

43. (currently amended) A method of treating pain in a ~~mammal~~ human suffering from pain comprising administering a composition consisting essentially of an amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human.

44. (currently amended) A method of treating pain in a ~~mammal~~ human suffering from pain comprising administering a composition consisting of an amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the ~~mammal~~ human.